

Message Text

SECRET

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13

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-10

L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6865

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T BONN 19369

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: FRG THINKING RE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL
AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING

1. DISCUSSIONS WITH FRG MBFR OFFICIALS ON DECEMBER 17
REVEALED THAT THE FRG IS STILL STUDYING ITS POSITION
WITH REGARD TO THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL AND THE
INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING. WITH
REGARD TO THE LATTER TOPIC, IT WAS INDICATED TO US THAT
THE GERMANS STILL HAVE SOME PROBLEMS WITH THE INCLUSION
OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING, BUT THE
PRECISE NATURE OF THE DIFFICULTIES WAS NOT SPELLED OUT.
THE FRG HOPES TO CLARIFY ITS POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.
HOWEVER, OUR SOURCES STATED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR
THE FRG TO DEVELOP A POSITION UNTIL THE USG DECIDES
WHAT TO DO ON OPTION III.

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2. WITH REGARD TO THE WESTERN REACTION TO THE EASTERN

FREEZE PROPOSAL, WORK HAS NOT MOVED VERY FAR FORWARD IN BONN SINCE THE KEY FRG MBFR OFFICIALS ATTENDED THE NATO MINISTERIALS IN BRUSSELS LAST WEEK. FRG AMBASSADOR BEHRENDIS IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO BONN ON DECEMBER 18, AND WORK WILL AGAIN BECOME MORE FOCUSED ON WHAT THE FRG PROPOSES TO DO.

3. THE CURRENT FRG POSITION ON MBFR IN BROAD OUTLINE AS IT WAS PUT TO US IS AS FOLLOWS:

- A. MAINTAIN THE COMMON CEILING AS A GOAL;
- B. TRY TO OBTAIN A SOUND PHASE I AGREEMENT CONSISTING OF US/SOVIET REDUCTIONS; AND
- C. TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE SITUATION FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF A PHASE I AGREEMENT.

4. FINALLY, WE WERE TOLD THAT THE FRG WOULD FAVOR A SCALEBACK APPROACH SHOULD THE USG DECIDE TO ADOPT SUCH A POSITION. THE GERMANS PLAN TO MEET WITH THE BRITISH IN JANUARY TO DISCUSS MBFR. APPARENTLY, THE BRITISH HAVE MENTIONED TO THE GERMANS THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER TRILATERAL MEETING IN JANUARY, BUT THIS DOES NOT MAKE ANY SENSE TO FRG OFFICIALS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE USG DECIDES UPON ITS POSITION.
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